

CBD to University LRT

Salt Lake City, Utah

(November 2002)

Description

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) has completed a 2.5-mile double-track Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension from the North/South LRT line in downtown Salt Lake City to Rice-Eccles Stadium on the University of Utah campus. The University LRT line includes four new stations and five light rail vehicles (LRV). LRVs currently operate primarily at-grade on tracks laid in existing city streets and on property owned by Salt Lake City, the Utah Department of Transportation and the University of Utah. The University LRT Line has significantly improved access to jobs, educational opportunities, health care and housing throughout the 400 South Corridor. UTA estimated ridership at 4,360 boardings per average weekday in January 2002. The current ridership is 7,700 boardings per average weekday.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$118.50 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share for this project is \$84.60 million.

Status

A Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (MIS/DEIS) was completed in July 1997 on the 10.9-mile West-East Corridor. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the project into Preliminary Engineering in January 1998. FTA approved the Airport to University–West/East Final EIS in March 1999. In December 1999, the FEIS was revised to provide for an initial line between downtown Salt Lake City and Rice-Eccles Stadium on the University of Utah campus. FTA issued a Record of Decision for the Airport to University–West/East LRT in December 1999. In March 2000, FTA approved the project into Final Design. FTA signed an FFGA in August 2000 with a revenue operations date scheduled for November 15, 2002. The University LRT line was opened for revenue operations in December 2001.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(72) authorizes the Salt Lake City – Light Rail (Airport to University of Utah) for final design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$15.84 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project, with an additional \$4.96 million appropriated to the project, but was not included in the scope of the FFGA.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$84.60	\$15.84 million appropriated through FY 2002 *
Formula Funds	\$11.90	CMAQ
State/Local:		
Sales Tax Revenues	\$21.70	
Donated Right-of-Way	\$0.30	
TOTAL	\$118.50	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

* An additional \$4.96 million was appropriated for the project in prior years, but was not included in the FFGA scope. This amount brings the total amount appropriated to \$20.8 million.

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